

February 14, 2014

Weekly Views

IDOC Central Office received a special visit from some new recruits in the Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) program at the Indiana Women's Prison. The very cute and tired puppies, Jasmine and Angel, spent the day traveling around the city of Indianapolis to deliver special Valentine's to ICAN supporters, including Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann who was given the honor of naming one of the puppies, Angel. (photo below)

Correctional Industrial Facility's FIDO program will be featured on the Pet Pals television program on WISH-TV this Saturday morning at 5:30am and

again on WNDY at 9:30am. Tune in and watch! In partnership with The Animal Protection League, FIDO (FIDO (Faith+Inmates+Dogs=Opportunity) pairs inmates with local shelter dogs to prepare them for adoption.

Students in the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's CLIFF and PLUS units assisted the Salvation Army with their weekly meal offering and pantry supplies. The facility has been assisting the Salvation Army for several years providing assistance for meals, supply organization, vegetable gardens, and Christmas basket and coat program.

The parenting classes at Madison Correctional Facility made Valentine's Day cards for their children as well as cards for the 96 residents at the Waters of Clifty Falls Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The Indiana Blood Center conducted a blood drive at the Pendleton Correctional Facility resulting in ten units donated by staff. In appreciation of their participation, donors were presented with a five dollar Wal-Mart gift card.



NewsBarb, a Greene County based on-line news service, paid a visit to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF), taking away lots of ideas for future stories. Heather Rogers, NewsBarb editor/reporter, (pictured left) termed WVCF "a fascinating place!" Rogers learned how offenders prepare for a successful return to society, why the facility has gone "green" and how custody staff keep the peace. Public Information Officer Rich Larsen said giving reporters a firsthand look at the operation gives them a better perspective and balance when writing about the maximum-security facility.

Offenders in the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) PLUS program are once again giving back to the community; this time through the Knot Blanket Project. The project provides fleece blankets to the children of St. Mary's School, where a large number of its students are poverty stricken. The program is funded by an outside agency that provides the material and coordinates with IWP for

the blankets to be completed and taken to the children. 2013 marked the first year of the project, in which 150 blankets were provided to children in need and were described as "gifts wrapped with thoughtfulness and tied with love!" (photo right)

Congratulations are in order for the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) recycling team for their impressive annual figures. In 2013, the team effort produced 680,557 pounds of recycled material for total revenue of \$85,811.60. At WCC, one officer and seven level one offenders are responsible for the entire recycling operation.

Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) is proud to announce the promotion of John Nelson to the position of Warehouse Supervisor. Mr. Nelson began his career at IREF as an officer in March 2012. Prior to working at IREF, Nelson worked in the warehouse industry for many years. He received an Associate's degree from Kaplan College, and will graduate from Indiana Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice this May. (photo below)



Correctional Industrial Facility staff were entertained at a talent show put on by the offenders under the guidance of the facility's recreation department. A variety of musical talents were displayed and preformed by the offenders to the enjoyment of staff. Superintendent Wendy Knight said, "This is just the first of many talent shows we will be conducting throughout the year. Offenders will also hold monthly concerts for the offender population beginning in February."

Friends and family gathered for a graduation ceremony at Westville for 29 trainees from WCC, Indiana State Prison (ISP) and Camp Summit Boot Camp who completed their four week-long training at the Pre-Service Academy. Two graduates received special awards for their hard work. Michelle Martin of ISP received the Professionalism Award, and Ebony Stevenson of WCC received the Teamwork Award. ISP Superintendent William Wilson, who was the keynote speaker at the event, shared a small portion of his wealth of knowledge about the Department of Correction along with a few personal stories with the graduates.

Martin University began their Spring Semester at IWP. Fourteen classes are being offered to the offenders. One class offered is State and Local Government; the professors are State Representatives Karlee Mercer and Judson McMillin. The offenders are thankful for Dr. Kelsey Kauffman and James Patterson for spearheading this college opportunity. All professors donate their time and efforts.

